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1993 Annual Report.

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ABSTRACT

This report examines the state of child care in the communities of Livermore, Pleasanton, and Dublin, California. The report's findings indicate that: (1) the area's population of young children has increased 20 percent in the last 5 years, with nearly one-third of these 20,819 children requiring paid child care; (2) although between 1988 and 1993 the gap in the need for child care was reduced 40 percent, 1,300 children were still in need of care; (3) child care referrals in 1993 increased 4 percent over previous years; (4) the number of licensed family day care providers increased 12 percent between 1989 and 1993; (5) the number of day care centers increased 27 percent between 1989 and 1993; (6) turnover of family home providers decreased 14 percent between 1988 and 1993; (7) in 1993 every elementary school in the area provided before- and after-school child care; (8) the number of providers receiving federal or state reimbursements increased 20 percent between 1988 and 1993; (9) government subsidies increased significantly over the past year; and (10) only 10 to 15 percent of eligible families in the area received child care subsidies. (MDM)

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THE VALLEY COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO CHILD CARE NEEDS

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1993 annual report

*"The only task each generation absolutely must accomplish is
to raise the next generation—and how well that task is performed will
determine our future."*

—Source Unknown—

An integral component of "raising the next generation" is quality child care services. How does the Valley community best respond to the child care needs of our children while the primary caregivers, their parents, are away earning a livelihood or becoming educated to do so?

Attaining sufficient **quantity** and **quality** of child care is the concern of a caring, involved community. Required of such a community is a joint commitment from parents, child care providers, local leadership, government programs, human service agencies, and employers.

The Valley continues to face the challenge of high child care costs to parents and low salaries to providers of care. The effects of this imbalance are reflected in high turnover among providers. And ultimately the children pay the highest price. They lose socialization and language skills, important to their growth and development into tomorrow's citizens.

This year's annual report demonstrates the state of child care in Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin, California over the past five years, culminating in 1993. Much progress has been made. Still many unmet needs call for creative solutions.



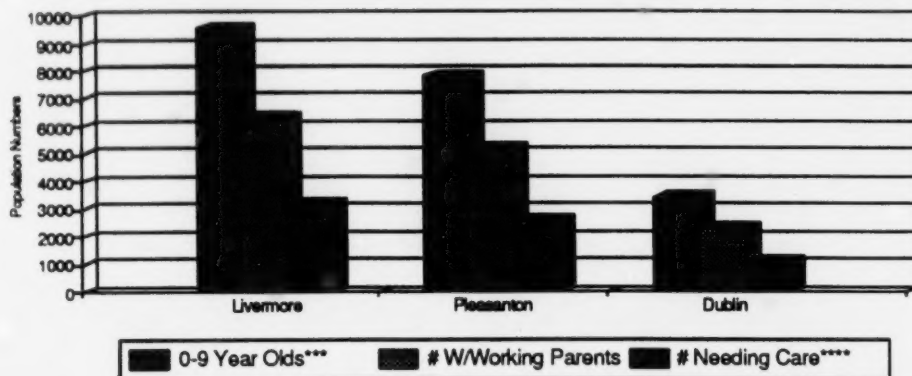


THE NEED

The numbers . . .

- In 1993, the Valley's population of children, infants through age 9*, is 20,819.
- This age group has been steadily increasing in number each year in all three cities.
- Only one-third of these children live in a traditional nuclear family, consisting of a mother who provides full-time care and a father as the sole financial support.
- One-third of our children under age 10 -- or 6,915 -- need paid child care.**

NEED FOR CHILD CARE



TREND:

- The Valley's population of 0 through 9 year olds has increased 20% in the last five years, indicating corresponding growth in the number of children needing paid child care.

The supply and the need . . .

The oversupply or undersupply of child care slots impacts both quantity and quality issues. A provider surplus of 15% is considered an acceptable standard, as too narrow an oversupply limits choices in terms of location, cost and quality options. An undersupply contributes to social problems by increasing the rates of unemployment and latchkey children.

A long-standing oversupply of slots for preschoolers has existed for many years Valleywide (43% surplus in 1993). Although slots for the infant/toddler age group showed a first-time surplus of 10% in 1993, the Valley is still slightly undersupplied in terms of the 15% guideline. The largest gap and most critical need continue to be with the school-aged population.

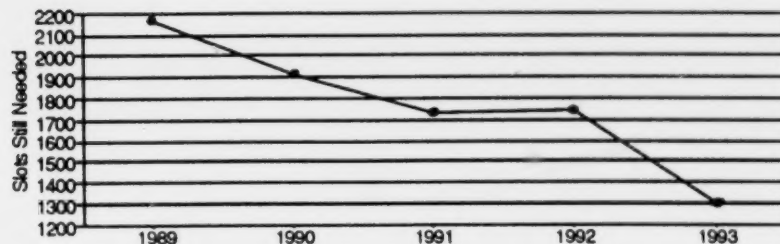
* The needs described herein include children who are infants through age 9. This is not to imply that children age 10 and over do not require safe, supervised quality child care.

** Unpaid child care can be provided by relatives or neighbors, school-agers' parents who work part-time or flextime hours or who work at home (at least during before- and after-school hours) and, in two-parent families, by parents who work opposite shifts.

*** Projected population figures were based on census information supplied by local Planning and School District offices.

**** The standard formula used to compute number of children needing care is 50% of the number with working parents.

COMPARISON OF UNMET NEED FOR SCHOOL AGE CARE



TREND:

- For Valley children ages 0 through 9, the gap in the need for child care was reduced 40% from 1988 to 1993. However, the Valley still experiences a gap of 1,300 slots.

COMPARISON NUMBER OF CHILD CARE REFERRALS*

	From 1992 to 1993	In 1993, as compared to 1988-1993 average
AVERAGE	+21%	+4%
Livermore	+23%	+5%
Pleasanton	+19%	0%**
Dublin	+22%	+9%

TRENDS:

- All three cities fluctuated in number of referrals from one year to the next with substantial increases and decreases. The largest fluctuation occurred from 1992 to 1993, increasing 21%.
- Compared to an average of the previous four years, referrals increased 4% in 1993.

The costs . . .

Subsidies are critically needed to balance the economic needs of both child care providers and low and middle-income families. Program funds for partial reimbursement of food costs help to defray a small portion of the provider's cost of conducting business. And supplemental payments to families for child care costs -- although improving markedly in the last two years -- continue to fall very short of the need.

Child care costs consume a significant proportion of a family's budget. A commonly used guideline for the amount of income to be spent on child care for all families is 10%***. A family of four in the Valley, earning \$33,500 per year, paying for an infant in full-time care and a 7 year old in before- and after-school care, would typically spend \$8,700. Although child care consumes 26% of their income and is their second largest budget item following housing, this family would not be eligible for a child care subsidy.

* Data reported by Resources for Family Development

** Rate remains the same as the five year average

*** Source: "Market Child Care Expenditures as a Proportion of Income" from "The Current Child Care Debate in Context," Sandra Hofferth, National Institute of Health and Human Development, 1988.

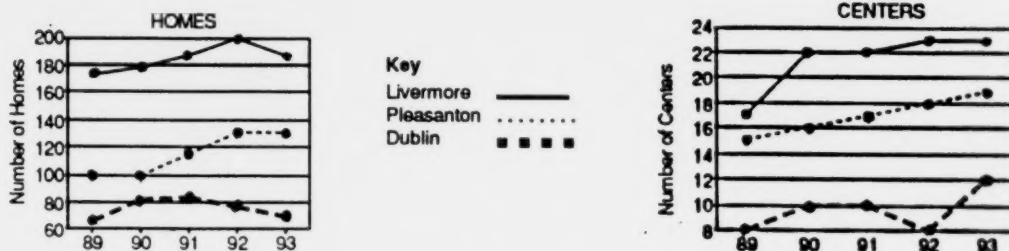


THE RESPONSE

... from Child Care Providers

To address the issue of sufficient **quantity** of caregivers, statistics for family home providers and child care centers (not including nursery schools) are considered below. The care providers' turnover rate is a measurable component of **quality**. Center data is not available.

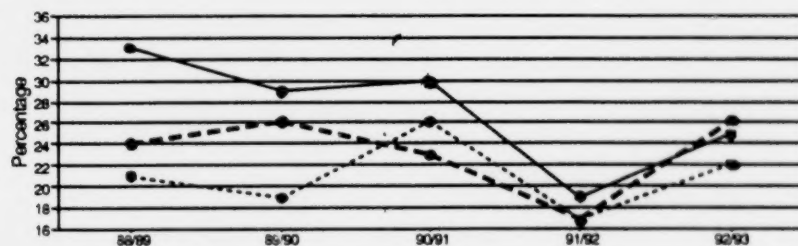
PERCENTAGE INCREASES AND DECREASES IN CAPACITY



TRENDS:

- Since 1989, there has been an increase in licensed family home providers in Livermore and Pleasanton and a decrease in Dublin. The ranks of these providers in the Valley have increased 12% from five years ago.
- Between 1989 and 1993, 15 more child care centers have been added in the Valley, for an increase of 27%. At 33%, Dublin experienced the largest individual increase of the three cities.

TURNOVER OF FAMILY HOME PROVIDERS



TREND:

- Turnover is up 25% over last year. However, since 1988 it has decreased 14% in spite of the economic recession and the state's high unemployment rate of the last few years.

Despite some improvements, provider turnover continues to be a critical issue in providing quality care.

... from City Governments

Every year since 1986, the cities of Pleasanton and Livermore have contracted with Resources for Family Development for services to improve child care in their cities, allowing for expansion of both services and quality. Improvements include:

- Technical assistance to employers on family friendly benefits and policies
- Greatly expanded training of caregivers
- A branch office in Pleasanton
- A provider Substitute Registry
- Annual recognition awards for Early Childhood Professionals and Family Friendly Employers and much more

... from School Districts and Recreation Districts

Since the mid-1980's, individual Valley cities have actively intervened in the chronic shortage of school age slots. In 1993, ***every elementary school in Livermore, Pleasanton, and Dublin houses on-site before- and after-school child care.***

The Pleasanton Unified School District sponsors programs at six elementary schools and the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District at nine schools. LARPD also administers Kids' Zone in two schools, serving children year-round through age 12 throughout Livermore.

Serving 1,020 school-agers, all Valley programs operate at full capacity. However, lengthy waiting lists total 825. The gap could be reduced by use of vacant slots among family home providers. Each year more providers receive specialized training to implement age-appropriate curricula for this age group. Home-based care offers the advantage of balancing the institutional setting of the school day with a more individualized, relaxed atmosphere.

... from County, State and Federal Government

Child Care Food Program

Licensed family home providers have received federal and state funded partial reimbursements for meals and snacks served in their homes to children in their care. These providers, trained through the program in sound nutritional practices, remain eligible by meeting standards in meal planning and reporting.

TREND:

- From 1988 to 1993, there has been a 20% increase in the number of providers receiving reimbursements.

Child Care Subsidy Program

Limited federal, state, and county funds are available for child care for families meeting income and need requirements. Parents must be employed, seeking employment, in school or job training, or in need of respite care. Passage of the Child Care Development Block Grant in 1991 marked the first allocation of federal child care funds since the inception of Head Start in 1964.

TRENDS:

- Since 1992, there has been a significant increase in subsidy monies for child care. This signals a heartening trend for parents in meeting excessive child care costs despite an era of downturn in the economy.
- On the other hand, in the Valley funds are available for only 10-15% of eligible families.



... from Employers

Corporations and businesses are increasingly aware of the importance of the family and how it relates to employee morale and productivity in the workplace. Acting on this awareness, more and more family friendly benefits are being implemented in Valley businesses, directly improving the quality and the costs of their employees' child care. Among the most proactive Valley employers are the winners of the Family Friendly Employer Awards for 1992 and 1993:

1993: Pleasanton Municipal Court

offering flextime, make-up time, job sharing, voluntary time off without pay.

Ark/Storyland Preschool and Child Care Centers, Livermore

offering flexible schedules, job sharing, free or reduced child care. This employer is also outstanding in its employee benefits package, which is substantially above the industry standard.

1992: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore

offering family friendly benefits including a low-ratio, near-site child care facility with specialized infant/toddler care and a Dependent Care Assistance Program.

AT & T, Pleasanton

offering family friendly contracted employer-subsidized child care referrals, screening information, financial options, flexible work arrangements, and funds contributed through the American Business Collaborative for enhancement of the community's family child care services.

CAPACITY AND WEEKLY COST OF CARE

	CAPACITY			HOME COST			CENTER COST		
	Licensed Homes	Licensed Centers	Total	0-2 Yrs	2-5 Yrs	5-10 Yrs	0-2 Yrs	2-5 Yrs	5-10 Yrs
Livermore Neighborhoods									
Arroyo Seco	138	50	188	\$108.45	\$96.44	\$66.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$57.00
Christensen/Croce	190	199	389	\$110.75	\$100.57	\$70.61	\$150.00	\$104.00	\$65.22
Jackson	112	409	521	\$107.50	\$90.00	\$68.24	\$141.69	\$112.08	\$54.42
Michell	100	45	145	\$107.08	\$92.64	\$65.07	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$57.00
Marylin	198	117	315	\$98.48	\$94.49	\$65.22	\$138.00	\$98.00	\$57.00
Portola	114	294	408	\$112.08	\$101.43	\$71.94	\$128.39	\$110.31	\$58.09
Rancho	144	104	248	\$100.00	\$95.00	\$50.00	\$135.00	\$85.00	\$57.36
Smith	168	45	213	\$105.96	\$96.06	\$69.96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$57.00
Sunset	124	150	274	\$109.66	\$96.72	\$69.54	\$0.00	\$97.33	\$63.18
	1288	1413	2701	\$105.84	\$96.66	\$68.51	\$136.39	\$105.86	\$57.24
				Averages			Averages		
Pleasanton Neighborhoods									
Alisal	114	322	436	\$116.49	\$114.00	\$74.81	\$154.00	\$113.00	\$70.44
Fairlands	138	194	332	\$117.47	\$106.29	\$76.38	\$170.00	\$109.00	\$74.74
Valley View	58	108	166	\$117.67	\$97.06	\$63.46	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$68.92
Vintage Hills	66	28	94	\$116.75	\$113.39	\$78.33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$67.00
Walnut Grove	124	411	535	\$117.31	\$104.57	\$65.21	\$164.57	\$110.89	\$72.82
Dorlon	304	436	740	\$115.05	\$109.10	\$75.32	\$158.00	\$116.21	\$64.75
Lydken	130	40	170	\$119.43	\$106.57	\$64.71	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$67.00
	934	1539	2473	\$116.70	\$108.21	\$71.31	\$160.74	\$112.19	\$70.11
				Averages			Averages		
Dublin Neighborhoods									
Fredericksen	75	266	341	\$109.48	\$100.83	\$61.88	\$131.00	\$133.94	\$95.07
Murray	156	122	278	\$108.75	\$100.86	\$65.83	\$150.00	\$102.00	\$63.00
Neilsen	178	339	517	\$113.69	\$100.32	\$66.56	\$0.00	\$108.77	\$70.50
	409	727	1136	\$111.16	\$100.62	\$65.33	\$137.79	\$114.93	\$79.98
				Averages			Averages		
GRAND TOTAL	2631	3679	6310	\$111.23	\$101.83	\$68.38	\$144.97	\$110.99	\$69.11
				Averages			Averages		

This report was prepared by Resources for Family Development and was partially funded by the cities of Pleasanton and Livermore.

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